

For Immediate Release:



Wells Bring Hope Exceeded its goal of 40 wells in 2011, now almost 100 in total!

December 22, 2011 – Los Angeles, CA – Wells Bring Hope, a Los Angeles based charity that drills water wells in the second poorest country in the world, Niger, West Africa, has had an incredibly successful year in 2011, raising enough to fund the drilling of 98 wells in rural villages throughout this impoverished country. By year end, that number could reach 100 since its inception in 2008. The goal of 40 wells for 2011 was exceeded by 18 wells, almost 50% more!

One recent success was their October fundraiser at the Lladro Gallery in Beverly Hills where Panda Restaurant Group, Inc., the parent company of Panda Express, Panda Inn and Hibachi-San, and its family of over 18,000 associates, donated over \$112,000, which included a matching gift by its Founder and Chairmen Andrew and Peggy Cherng.

Another Wells Bring Hope 2011 highlight was a World Water Week event honoring a remarkable 14 year old girl, Kevin Kilroy. Kevin gave a four-minute presentation to her church and in five Masses raised enough for two wells, \$11,200. She then went on to mobilize her school, and friends of her family to raise enough for three more wells. Now at Marymount High School, she is continuing her fundraising efforts. In April, her father and older brother went to Niger and took many moving photos and video displayed at the Lladro event, sponsored by Kevin's father - investment banker and philanthropist Ken Kilroy.

Other successes in 2011 included educational events with Santa Monica College and the Marlborough School, a new website up at www.wellsbringhope.org, bringing on many new volunteers, and more.

2012 looks like it will be off to an exciting start as a Wells Bring Hope team heads off to Niger and Mali to see the progress made in villages where it has drilled wells. How have the lives of the villagers benefited from Wells Bring Hope's work? They will talk to girls who are now going to school, women who have received micro-loans to start small businesses and other beneficiaries to find out.

The team includes: Founder & President, Barbara Goldberg, longtime volunteer Ida Harding, volunteers, Hadiara Diallo who was born in Niger, Kristin Allen, who blogs for WBH, and its dedicated videographer Daniel Yadlosky.

Partnered with World Vision, who does all of its drilling, Wells Bring Hope continues to work with every village for 15+ years, educating people on good sanitation and hygiene, farming techniques and more. It also teaches well maintenance so all the wells are fully sustainable. Women get micro-financing to start small businesses to improve the economic well-being of their families. Girls can go to school, no longer having to walk miles to carry water.

Every donation is multiplied 5 times, with a dollar for dollar match by World Vision and then additional funds provided over the 15+ years working with the villages. Funds for one well - \$5,600, delivers services valued at over \$30,000.

To make a tax deductible contribution to Wells Bring Hope, please go to www.wellsbringhope.org or mail a check payable to: Wells Bring Hope, 16563 Park Lane Circle, Los Angeles, CA 90049.

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For more information please see www.wellsbringhope.org or contact Susan von Seggern on susan@susanvonseggern.com or 213-840-0077.